

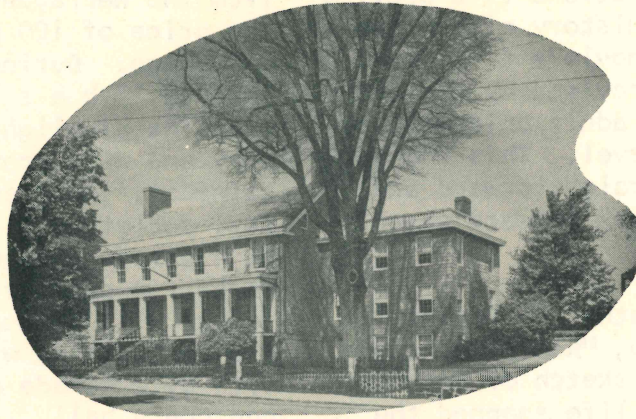
# New London County Historical Society

11 Blinman Street

SHAW MANSION

New London, Conn.

Quarterly



Bulletin

VOLUME 5

JULY 1957

NUMBER 3

## TALK ON SUPERNATURALISM AND SCIENCE TO BE FEATURE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Scientific knowledge has grown enormously from the time when our New England forefathers thundered from the pulpits and wrote tracts about earthquakes and great winds and heavenly displays. Now specialists in many fields are actively measuring the forces that shape our environment. The contrast between those early reactions and the present scientific approach when the world celebrates the 18-month International Geophysical Year will be the feature of the Society's annual meeting at the Mansion on Tuesday, September 17 at 8 o'clock.

Dr. John M. Ide, Technical Director of the U.S. Navy Underwater Sound Laboratory at Fort Trumbull, and well-known geophysicist, will be the featured speaker. His paper, "Superstition and Science--Reflections during the International Geophysical Year", will review in popular style the beliefs of earlier times when men attributed victory or defeat, success or failure, to the storms and other little understood wonders that visited them.

Log book entries describing the Aurora Borealis, sermons portraying natural phenomena as evidence of divine intervention in human affairs, poetry and folk lore centering around the weather that people have always talked about--these will all be exhibited with photographs and other items to illustrate various old and new phases of the scientific areas covered.

## SUMMER MEETING OF LEAGUE AT NIANTIC

The summer meeting of the Connecticut League of Historical Societies was held at Niantic on July 27th. The morning session in the Niantic Baptist Church was presided over by Mr. Williams Haynes in the absence of President Whitney Brooks.

A talk on "Good Public Relations-Its Importance to the Historical Society", by Mr. Jerry Barber of Hartford, and a two-man presentation on "Pitfalls in Bequests" by Mr. Hugh Campbell of the Phoenix Mutual Insurance Company, and Mr. John McBride of the Hartford National Bank and Trust Company featured the morning meeting.

The audience adjourned for lunch and the afternoon session to the Thomas Lee House where the League was founded. A talk on "Identification of 17th and 18th Century American Furniture as Opposed to English and Continental" by Mr. Carleton L. Safford of the Antiquarian and Landmarks Society, and a short historical sketch of the Lee House by Mr. Elmer D. Keith were followed by an inspection of the house under the guidance of Mrs. Alice Hunt, hostess and summer custodian for many years.

The use of wild flowers inside and out at the Lee House, and the beautiful zinnias and Queen Anne's lace at the church provided touches of grace and color.

The Annual of the New Canaan Historical Society, dated June 1957, contains, as always, a great deal of interesting information. Among the contributions is a preview of a chapter from the "History of New Canaan for Young People" by Genevieve C. Salmon. This work is now being revised by the author to make it suitable for adult enjoyment as well as at the school level. This chapter is written in such a straightforward and lively manner that we look forward eagerly to seeing more.

From the Wallingford Historical Society comes a tender monograph, "Reminiscences of my mother", a loving sketch of Merancy Blakeslee Beadle, whose life spanned the years 1794 to 1885. Nearly a century of Wallingford life is reflected in the activities of this woman who, widowed at forty, raised seven children and maintained her independence by working hard at a variety of tasks.

The Connecticut Antiquarian for July contains three articles of interest: "Horse-shoe nails to squeeze bottles", a sketch of Stonington's resourcefulness through the years by Williams Haynes; the story of Tobacco in the Connecticut Valley by Frances Edwards of Suffield; and Lila Parrish Lyman's story of New London's Winthrop House, designed by Peter Harrison, 1752-54.

The bulletin of the Hamden Historical Society dated May 1 reports that society's plans to increase its membership from 100 to 1000; to republish the town's history; and to preserve milestones endangered by current building projects.

From The New London County Historical Society, Shaw Mansion  
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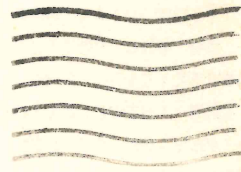
A program from the Jamestown, Rhode Island, Tercennial Committee brings the news of the island's 300th anniversary celebration. Jamestown was purchased from the Narragansett Indians in 1657 for the price of 100 pounds paid in wampum and peage. During the week of August 10th to 17th a series of events will depict the highlights of the Island's history and will provide a variety of entertainment. An open meeting of the historical society will be held, and there will be a parade and tour of historic landmarks. A procession of old cars and floats will feature Thursday's events. The festivities will be wound up on the 17th by a parade and pageant and a tercentenary ball.

Of particular interest to New Londoners is the invitation to visit the old windmill and see what has been done towards its restoration. Home made johnny-cake and sausages, coffee and watermelon will be served in honor of the occasion.

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The Publications mentioned in the left hand column are available to any member of the Society.

For Your Information

The Society's telephone number is  
Gibson 3-1209  
The Mansion is open daily except  
Sunday from 1 to 4.  
Custodians in residence:  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Holmes



~~Miss Hazel A. Johnson  
146 Mohegan Avenue  
New London~~